

upon the shape in which the computation is presented to it. It frequently needs special formulæ and peculiar methods, such as do not at once suggest themselves to the minds of persons inexperienced in its use, and there is scope for the exercise of no small amount of ingenuity, in so arranging the work as to gain the utmost benefit. Some formula are peculiarly suitable for logarithmic work, and rather unsuitable for the arithmometer; others are of precisely the reverse character; hence, while I believe the arithmometer to possess great advantages, I do not for one moment anticipate that it will altogether supplant tables of logarithms and reciprocals. Each will be found to have its own sphere of usefulness, within which it has no rival. Moreover, different persons will form different estimates of the value of the machine. Some who through years of incessant practice have obtained a special facility in arithmetical operations will be inclined to regard it as unnecessary; others, who find arithmetical work to constitute a severe tax upon mental energy which could be profitably employed in other directions, will value it highly.

My own experience is, that I perform my work in less than half the time that I previously required, and with not a tithe of the fatigue. Indeed, I calculate that the saving of time and labour, consequent upon its use during the past two years, has repaid its original cost several times over.

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ART. XX.—*On the Meteor of April 15th.*

By J. PERRY, ESQ.

[Read 6th September, 1875.]

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